

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

by

F. W. BUNTING, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health for the Whiston Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1949

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*The Chairman and Members of the
Whiston Rural District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of Whiston Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

I am happy to report that the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year.

The death rate at 7.8 per 1,000 is not only below that for England and Wales (11.7) but is the lowest recorded for over 16 years with the exception of 1942 when it was 7.7 per 1,000.

The birth rate of 14.3 per 1,000 shows a very slight reduction on the rate for 1948.

I am happy to report that there has been a marked reduction in the infantile mortality rate, the rate being 43 per 1,000 live births compared with 73 per 1,000 for the previous year. Only one maternal death was notified during the year.

There has been a slight decrease in the incidence of infectious disease, 683 cases being notified compared with 799 during 1948.

There was a reduced incidence of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough, but an increase in the number of cases of Measles notified. Only 4 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the willing assistance I have received from the officials of the Council and in particular from Mr. W. H. Bone, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. BUNTING.

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department

Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

F. W. BUNTING, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector... .. W. H. BONE, C.R.S.I.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1948

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres : 29,440 Population—Census, 1931 : 22,864

Registrar-General's estimate of Population, mid-1949 38,780

Number of inhabited houses—

(a) Census, 1931 4,808

(b) End of 1949 according to rate books 9,911

Rateable value : £222,903 Sum represented by a penny rate : £860

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area :—

The inhabitants are mostly of the working class. The chief industries are agriculture, coal mining, brass founding and stove making. There is also one chemical works, where nearly all the employees live outside the district. A number of light industries have been established on the Kirkby Trading Estate but most of the employees live outside the Rural area.

Live Births—

			Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	....	....	544	294	250
Illegitimate	....	....	11	6	5
		Total	555	300	255

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1949—14.3

			Total	M.	F.
Stillbirths	....	....	14	6	6
Rate per 1,00 total (live and still) births—15					

Deaths	Total	M.	F.
	303	152	151

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population—Crude—7.8

Adjusted—9.0

Deaths from puerperal causes—

	Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	nil.	nil.
Other maternal	1	1.76
Total maternal mortality	1	1.76

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	42
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	91

Principal Causes of Deaths—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	....	....	45
„ Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	....	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	....	....	1
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	....	....	....	....	6

Laboratory Facilities

Liverpool City Bacteriologist, School of Hygiene, Liverpool. Two samples of water, one sample of dripping fat, one sample of vinegar and 19 samples of milk were submitted for examination during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply :—

Liverpool Corporation, St. Helens Corporation, Widnes Corporation and Warrington Corporation are the supplying authorities for the area. The sources of supply are deep wells and upland surface water. No new sources of supply have been acquired during the year.

Supplies to Houses :—

Parish	From Public Mains				Private Supplies, e.g., wells, springs, etc.	
	Direct to houses		By means of st'dpipe		No. of dwelling- houses	No. of popula'n
	No. of dwelling- houses	No. of popula'n	No. of dwelling- houses	No. of popula'n		
Bold	618	2100	0	0	0	0
Cronton	190	600	0	0	0	0
Eccleston	1426	6500	0	0	4	12
Hale	268	700	0	0	0	0
Halewood	764	2400	0	0	1	5
Kirkby	660	3406	0	0	14	35
Knowsley	1579	5800	0	0	7	24
Rainhill	1638	6500	13	42	1	3
Tarbock	189	600	0	0	2	7
Whiston	1858	6800	7	18	0	0
Windle	1086	3000	0	0	3	11
Total	10276	38400	20	60	32	97

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and quantity with the exception of parts of the Parish of Halewood. A poor supply to nine dwellings in the Parish of Hale was rectified by renewing a portion of the main. Two samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from supplies where treatment is installed, in the Parish of Kirkby. Both samples proved to be satisfactory.

During the year under review the water supplying Authorities have carried out extensions of mains within the Rural District as follows :—

- 3in.—441 yards St. Helens Corporation.
- 4in.—153 yards St. Helens Corporation.
- 3in.—429 yards Widnes Corporation.
- 4in.—1520 yards Widnes Corporation.
- 3in.—726 yards Liverpool Corporation.
- 4in.—896 yards Liverpool Corporation.

Drainage and Sewerage :—

Bold. Clock Face area. Sedimentation and filtration. In other parts of the Parish houses are provided with septic tanks or cesspools.

Cronton. The drainage arrangements in this Parish are unsatisfactory. There is no sewage disposal works. The bulk of the property is drained into septic tanks and ditches in the Parish are polluted.

Eccleston. Part of the Parish is sewered into the Corporation of St. Helens sewers and part into the sewage works at Whiston.

Hale. Part of the district is sewered and drained to sedimentation tanks. This scheme is unsatisfactory. Many houses have their own septic tanks and these arrangements are unsatisfactory.

Halewood. Sewage Works. The larger portion of the property in the built up area is drained to sewage works sedimentation and filtration—other properties to septic tanks.

Kirkby. Some of the properties are drained to Liverpool Corporation sewer, whilst houses erected during the war for employers at the then Royal Ordnance Factory are drained to sewage works—sedimentation and filtration—others to septic tank or cesspool.

Knowsley. Some of the property in this Parish is drained to Liverpool Corporation sewers, whilst one estate comprising 494 houses is connected to a sewage works—sedimentation and filtration—outlying properties to septic tanks or cesspools.

Rainhill. Sedimentation and irrigation, unsatisfactory. New sewage scheme awaiting approval of Ministry of Health.

Tarbock. This is a Rural Parish sparsely populated. No sewage works. Principally cesspools and septic tanks.

Whiston. Sedimentation and filtration. Proposals for remodelling sewage works.

Windle. Moss Bank area to sewage works—sedimentation and filtration, other parts in St. Helens Corporation sewers. Outlying areas septic tanks or cesspools.

The Parishes of Cronton and Tarbock, parts of Kirkby, Windle and Knowsley are without proper drainage systems due to these areas being rural and the houses dispersed over a wide area.

Rivers and Streams :—

The effluent from sewage works and chemical works occasionally pollute streams in the area. Samples of sewage and trade effluent are submitted for analysis from time to time and representation made to responsible bodies in an effort to check the pollution from such sources.

Closet accommodation at end of 1948 :—

Privy Middens	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	892
No. of closets attached to these middens	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1057
No. of pail closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	96
No. of dry ashpits (exc. middens)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	240
No. of movable ashbins	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7409
No. of trough closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
No. of fresh water closets	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9919
No. of houses on water carriage system	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	8668

Conversions during 1949 :—

- No. of privy closets to fresh W.C.'s :—22
- No. of privy closets to pail closets :—2
- No. of houses at which moveable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles :—22

Public Cleansing :—

The work of refuse removal and disposal is undertaken by the Local Authority in 10 Parishes and in one Parish the work is carried out partly by contract and partly by the Local Authority. Cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks is undertaken by the Council at the request of the owners or occupiers of property.

Sanitary Inspections during 1949—(including Housing)

- No. of premises visited :—3,813
- Defects or nuisances :—No. discovered 553 No. abated 497
- No. of notices served :—Informal 148 Statutory 31
- Legal proceedings :—None

Atmospheric Pollution :—

No special action has been taken with regard to atmospheric pollution by smoke but collieries and other industries continue to co-operate with the Local Authority for the reduction of smoke emission.

There are 9 factory chimneys within the Rural District.

Disinfestation :—

Particulars of action taken during 1949 :—

No. of houses found to be infested—

- (a) Council houses 9
- (b) Other houses 61

No. of houses disinfested—

- (a) Council houses 9
- (b) Other houses 61

The disinfestation was carried out by the use of Gammexane and residual spraying with D.D.T. solutions was used. These have proved to be most satisfactory.

Where it has been found necessary to disinfest belongings of tenants before removal to Council Houses Hydro-cyanide was used and this work was carried out under contract.

Schools :—

Total number of schools in the district :—21

(a) No. of schools with unsatisfactory yard surfaces :—11

(b) Sanitary accommodation :—

No. of schools with (i) Fresh water closets :—17

(ii) Trough closets :—3

(iii) Pail closets :—1

(c) Refuse disposal :—

No. of schools with (i) Dustbins :—20

(ii) Dry ashpits :—1

(d) Water supply :—all schools supplied from public mains.

(e) Washing and drinking facilities :—washing facilities unsatisfactory in 17 schools.

(f) Drainage :—

No. of schools with drainage to

(i) Public sewers :—16

(ii) Private treatment works :—4

The facilities for handling meals at the schools are not considered satisfactory in all cases.

Chief Sanitary requirements of the district :—

It is desirable that the Council undertake the provision of sewage disposal schemes in the Parishes of Cronton, Hale and Knowsley.

HOUSING

Housing continued to be one of the chief matters claiming the attention of the Local Authority during 1949.

36 permanent pre-fabricated houses and 61 traditional permanent houses were completed by the Council during the year. In addition 21 and 27 traditional permanent houses were built by other local authorities and by other bodies or persons respectively during the same period.

At the end of the year, the erection of 44 traditional brick houses was in hand by the Council and the building of a further 80 houses was contemplated.

There does not appear to be any special difficulties in finding suitable housing sites withing the district.

Sufficiency of supply of houses :—

The number and type of houses required to alleviate the present shortage are :—

2 bedroom type	....	....	....	....	....	550
3 bedroom type	....	....	....	....	....	240
4 bedroom type	....	....	....	....	....	30
						<hr/>
Total	....	....				820
						<hr/>

Overcrowding :—

14 cases of overcrowding in houses owned by the Council have been relieved during 1949 and none of these houses have again become overcrowded.

Overcrowding in the area is considerable due to the shortage of houses and there is still a considerable amount of work to be done in this connection.

Housing Conditions :—

Bold.

The major portion of the houses in the Parish of Bold are of the working class type, the principal owners being the National Coal Board. This property is in good condition and is well maintained. There is also a fair number of agricultural properties in the Parish, which are generally in good condition.

Cronton.

In the Parish of Cronton the houses are principally of the working class type. Generally, the property is of the smaller type : a number of the older type are sub-standard.

Eccleston.

The houses in the Parish of Eccleston are mainly of the residential type and are well maintained. There is also a fair number of houses of the working class type, many of which are sub-standard, and of considerable age. The agricultural houses are generally in good condition and well maintained.

Hale.

Houses in this Parish are generally of the residential type and are well maintained. The older types are small and are in many cases sub-standard.

Halewood.

Most of the houses in the Parish of Halewood are modern and of the residential type. There is also a considerable number of farm-houses and agricultural workers' cottages. Most of the cottages are in fair condition. There is no congestion. Most of the houses are openly situated.

Kirkby.

Properties are of the detached and semi-detached types with a considerable number of agricultural houses and cottages. Dampness is the chief defect in the older types.

Knowsley.

The older houses in the Parish of Knowsley are of the detached or semi-detached type and many are occupied by estate workers. These houses are generally well maintained. A large number of houses have been erected in this Parish by the Liverpool Corporation. In 1941 the Ministry of Aircraft Production erected 496 temporary bungalows in the Parish to house workers employed in war production factories and these have required considerable maintenance.

Rainhill.

There is a considerable difference in the types of houses in this Parish, a large number of the houses being of the working class type. Of the old houses, dampness is prevalent and many are sub-standard.

Tarbock.

There is only a small number of modern houses in the Parish of Tarbock, the houses generally being farm houses and agricultural cottages. Many of the cottages are old, but are reasonably well maintained.

Whiston.

The houses in the Parish of Whiston are almost all of the working class type. A considerable portion of the older property is of a poor type and here is some congestion. The more modern property is reasonably well maintained.

Windle.

In the Parish of Windle, houses are mainly of the detached or semi-detached type, with a fair number of farm houses. In the main they are fairly well maintained.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the rural district : 4.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2975
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	3813
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	28
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	155

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	120
--	-----

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	10

Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made....	28
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders....	11

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year....	523
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	756
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	2260
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Approx. 30
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..	72
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases....	252

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries took over the responsibility of the supervision of farm premises from the Local Authority on the 1st October, 1949. Prior to that date 118 farm premises were inspected by Sanitary Inspectors and a number of routine inspections were made in co-operation with the County Sanitary Officers. During all visits the opportunity was taken to impress upon milk producers the necessity for a higher standard of bacteriological purity of the milk produced.

Tuberculosis Milk :—

During 1949, 19 samples of milk were obtained and submitted to the City Bacteriologist, Liverpool University School of Hygiene and of these one sample was found to contain tubercle bacilli. Positive cases prior to the 1st October, 1949 were reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, to be dealt with by the department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries responsible for the veterinary inspections of the herds concerned. Subsequent positive samples are reported to the Animals Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 to 1949 :—

Three dealers licences in respect to the distribution of "Tuberculin Tested" milk, one in respect to "Accredited" milk and 19 licences in respect to "Pasteurised" milk distribution have been issued during the year.

Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

Ten premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and one for the manufacture and storage of potato crisps during the year.

Meat and Other Foods.

1447—lbs. of meat and canned food were voluntarily surrendered to Sanitary Inspectors during 1949.

I have to thank Dr. Hall, the County Medical Officer of Health for the details of sampling under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, carried out in the Rural District.

Of a total of 151 samples, 103 were milk and the 48 others comprised.

1 Bacon	1 Herrings	1 Roastex
2 Borax	1 Honey	1 Rum
4 Butter	1 Ice Cream	1 Sago
4 Canned vegetables	1 Icing Sugar	1 Sardines
1 Cheese	1 Lard	1 Semolina
2 Cocoa	1 Margarine	1 Sild
3 Cooking Fat	1 Mustard	3 Sugar
1 Fat	1 Pilchards	1 Sweets
1 Glycerine	4 Pudding Powders	5 Tea
1 Gravy Browning		1 Vinegar

One milk sample was found to be deficient in fat. The remainder of the samples were found to be genuine and free from adulteration.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING 1949.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	AGE PERIODS — YEARS										Total Cases all ages	Cases re- moved to h'pital	Deaths in h'pital
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age Un- known	Total deaths		
Smallpox	—	7	17	40	9	—	6	—	—	—	—	56	12
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles (excluding Rubella)	20	97	103	113	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	15	57	47	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute pneumonia	4	3	4	6	2	3	9	15	8	—	—	40	
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	6	11	—	—	—	—	16	
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute poliomyelitis....	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	
Acute polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	—	—	16	12	4	—	—	33	12
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Food poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	12
	683	165	174	186	21	11	46	28	13	—	—	153	

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The incidence of infectious diseases were slightly less than during the previous year. The incidence of scarlet fever and whooping cough was reduced but there was an increase in the number of cases of measles. Four cases of diphtheria were notified—the same number as during the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of cases of Tuberculosis and the number of deaths from the disease will be found in the following table.

Age Groups	New Cases						Deaths					
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—	—	1	...	2	—	....	—	—	...	1
5—	1	—	....	—	1	....	—	—	....	1
10—	—	—	—	1	....	—	—	....	—
15—	—	6	....	1	—	....	—	1	....	—
20—	3	4	....	—	—	....	—	—	....	1
25—	1	2	....	1	—	....	1	1	....	1
35—	1	3	....	—	1	....	5	2	....	—
45—	2	1	....	—	—	....	1	1	....	—
55—	2	3	....	—	—	....	2	1	....	—
65—	3	1	....	—	—	....	—	3	....	—
75 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
			13	21	....	4	3	....	9	9	....	2
Totals	34		....	7		....	18		....	4

The above figures show little change from the previous year when 37 cases of Respiratory and 17 cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified.

During 1948 there were 13 deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis and 1 from Non-Respiratory.

One of the difficulties in the control of Tuberculosis at the present time is acute shortage of Hospital beds, together with the presence of overcrowding in many parts of the Rural District.

DISINFECTION AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No. of houses disinfected during 1949 :—123

Method :—Formaldehyde

Apparatus used for disinfecting clothing, bedding, etc. :—Steam

Where is apparatus situated :—County Hospital, Whiston.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Insp'tions	Written notices	Occupiers prose'ted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	97	53	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	107	59	4	—

2.—Cases in which **DEFECTS** were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	5			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	None	None	None
(c) Not seperate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total	12	12	None	None	None

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) :—

File making 3

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

Complaints.

Defects—

Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	105
Refuse	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	165
Housing	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1570
Rats	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	177
General Nuisance	..	....	..	....	..	....	....	....	....	....	283

Notices Served.

Defects—

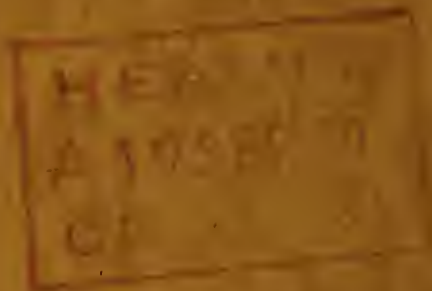
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	19
Refuse	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	12
General Nuisance	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	148

Summary of Inspections.

Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
Factories	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	59
Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	118
Butchers Shops and Food Premises	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	362
Investigation of Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	123
Investigation of Public Health Nuisances	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	838
Inspections under Housing Act	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2975
Rodent Investigation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	85
Bodies recovered	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	667
Estimated kill	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4061
Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	537
Refuse Accommodation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	460

(Signed) F. W. BUNTING.

Medical Officer of Health.



Printed by
COLLINS & DARWELL Ltd.
18 Leyland Street
Prescot